

Income Taxes Too High on Low and Medium Wage Groups

Part of your pay check is taken away every week to apply on your federal income tax. Under a fair system of taxation, thousands of workers at the Schenectady plant should pay no income tax at all. Others should pay only a small fraction of what they now have to. And the big GE executives with their huge salaries and bonuses would be required, for the first time, to shoulder their real share of the tax burden.

A resolution adopted unanimously by the Local 301 membership in July calls for income tax exemptions of \$2,000 for single persons; \$4,000 for couples and \$500 for each dependent. Those are the exemptions for which the national UE and other CIO unions have been pressing.

Under such an exemption system a worker with a wife to support would not start paying an income tax unless he earned about \$58 a week. With a wife and child, he wouldn't pay till he earned \$67 a week, and with a wife and two children, he wouldn't pay till he earned \$77 a week.

Representatives of CIO unions of the Thirty-first Congressional District and the Farmers Union drew up last January a Congressional program calling for this tax reform. This is the program on which Andrew Peterson, Local 301 president, is basing his campaign for Congress. It provides also:

"Progressively higher taxes beginning with small amount above \$3,000 (for couples) and approaching 100 per cent tax on net incomes over \$25,000."

On this page is printed a schedule of the present withholding tax for people earning \$44 to \$80 a week, showing how much they pay

if they are single or have one, two or three dependents. The complete schedule is too long to print here, but this chart ought to cover a large number of the workers in the plant.

During the war, both Democrats and Republicans promised that the high wartime taxes would be reduced as soon as possible after the war ended. The tax bill passed by Congress last spring gave only a little relief to the people of low and middle incomes, who carry the chief burden of the nation's taxes. But the bill gave billions of dollars in tax savings to wealthy corporation executives and stockholders. And Congress had already repealed the excess profits taxes.

Under the phony tax cut bill, a worker earning \$2500 a year received a tax cut of about \$1.50 a week, while a \$500,000 a year executive receives a cut of about \$900 a week in his taxes. The bill was passed by majorities of Republican and Democrats in both houses of Congress. It's a perfect example of the "relief for the greedy, not for the needy" which President Roosevelt condemned.

REMEMBER TO VOTE
PRIMARY DAY, AUG. 24

Weekly wages are—		And withholding exemptions claimed are—			
At least	But less than	0	1	2	3
The amount of tax to be withheld shall be—					
\$44	\$45	\$6.60	\$4.70	\$2.80	\$.90
45	46	6.80	4.90	3.00	1.10
46	47	6.90	5.00	3.10	1.20
47	48	7.10	5.20	3.30	1.30
48	49	7.20	5.30	3.40	1.50
49	50	7.40	5.50	3.60	1.60
50	51	7.50	5.60	3.70	1.80
51	52	7.70	5.80	3.90	1.90
52	53	7.80	5.90	4.00	2.10
53	54	8.00	6.10	4.20	2.20
54	55	8.10	6.20	4.30	2.40
55	56	8.30	6.40	4.50	2.50
56	57	8.40	6.50	4.60	2.70
57	58	8.60	6.70	4.80	2.80
58	59	8.70	6.80	4.90	3.00
59	60	8.90	7.00	5.10	3.10
60	62	9.10	7.20	5.30	3.40
62	64	9.40	7.50	5.60	3.70
64	66	9.70	7.80	5.90	4.00
66	68	10.00	8.10	6.20	4.30
68	70	10.30	8.40	6.50	4.60
70	72	10.60	8.70	6.80	4.90
72	74	10.90	9.00	7.10	5.20
74	76	11.20	9.30	7.40	5.50
76	78	11.50	9.60	7.70	5.80
78	80	11.80	9.90	8.00	6.10

10 Cent Increase At Liberty Tool

UE Local 329 at the Liberty Tool and Die Corporation, Rochester, has negotiated a general wage increase of 10 cents an hour, with back pay to April. The settlement provides for a wage reopening if two of the three major electrical corporations grant higher increases.

The new raise brings the labor rate to \$1.22 an hour and the top toolmakers' rate to \$2.22.

Raise and Hospitalization

An 11 cent wage package and hospitalization insurance are highlights of the new UE agreement with the Faultless Caster Company at Evansville, Ind. The company is to pay the insurance premiums for all workers and their dependents.

Pay Raise Averts Strike

Just 45 minutes before a strike was to start, the Altorfer Brothers Company at Peoria, Ill., came through with a 12½ cent wage package for its UE workers. The company manufactures ABC washing machines.

Chicago Contracts

On the eve of a strike deadline, the Danly Machine Company in Chicago granted a wage increase of 11 cents an hour. UE Local 1114 recently signed two other wage settlements, providing an 11 cent raise at Baumbach and an 11 cent raise, plus one cent in holiday improvements, at Gear Specialties.

Campaign Meeting At Gloversville

President Andrew Peterson of Local 301 made his first campaign talk outside Schenectady County Tuesday night when he addressed a group of volunteer campaign workers at Gloversville.

Frank McMasters, business agent of Amalgamated Clothing Workers, CIO, in Gloversville, presided. The group included some Democratic committeemen who are canvassing for Peterson.

"We have experimented too long with trial and error in electing our representatives," McMasters said.

"It's time we send someone to Washington who will represent the people. And Peterson is such a man."

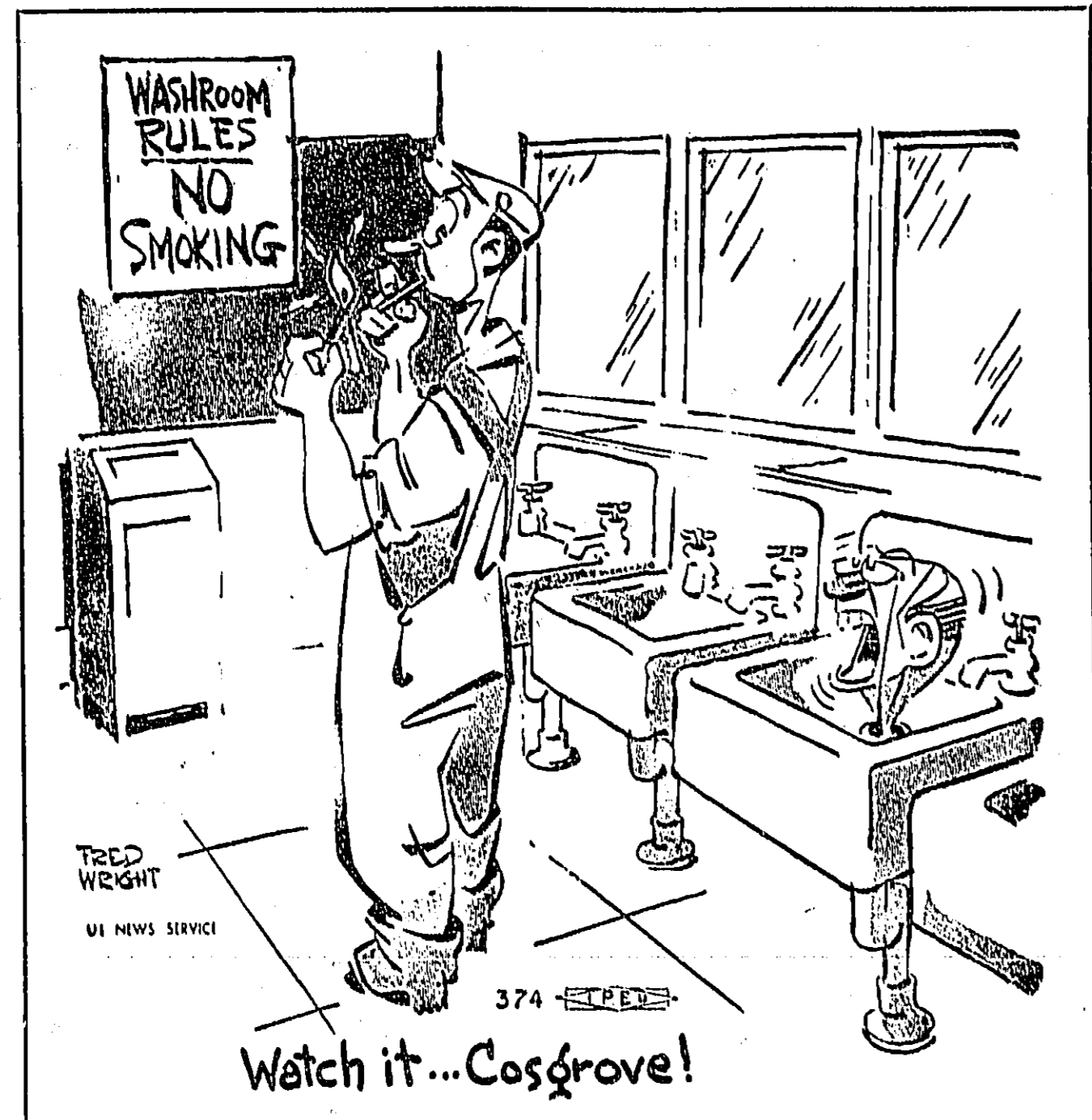
Peterson declared that the Democratic machine in Schenectady County, by picking a Congressional candidate who is not known in the district, was preparing to default the election to Representative Bernard Kearney.

"That's why I'm running," he said, "because we must unite to beat Kearney."

In outlining his Congressional platform, Peterson emphasized the need for broadened social security and \$120 a month minimum pensions.

301 Lawyer's Schedule

Union members can consult Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, at the union office every Monday through Thursday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. He will be available at other times by appointment.



Don't Forget Primary Day, Tuesday, August 24

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 - - - - U. E. R. & M. W. A. - - - - C. I. O.

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August 20, 1948

Peterson Volunteers Head for Primary

The campaign for the primary candidates endorsed by unanimous membership vote of Local 301 entered its final stage this week, with the Local 301 Independent Political Action sub-committee placing its main emphasis on organizing volunteers from the plant to get out the vote Tuesday and canvass enrolled Democrats before that.

Over-all direction of the campaign for Andrew Peterson for Congress and Walter S. Gross for State Senate has been undertaken by the district-wide Peterson-Gross Campaign Committee, led by long-standing Democratic leaders. The chairman is Frank McMasters of Gloversville, who is a member of the Fulton County Democratic Committee as well as business agent of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, CIO. Philip Sherman, Schenectady business man, is vice-chairman. William A. Stewart, 301 Board member and long a Democratic leader in Amsterdam, is secretary.

A campaign rally was held in Amsterdam last night. Leo Jandreau was one of the scheduled speakers.

After 31 Years Here, Wait a Little Longer

The case of a machinist who after 31 years' service was told to wait, "a few more months" before getting his "A" rating has been moved to the Howell level by Local 301.

The man does machine repair work in Building 101, and Shop Steward L. J. Reichel pointed out that he was doing the same work as all the others. But the foreman thought the man was too old to be raised anyway.

When the case was taken to Building 41, the union requested a joint inspection. The foreman was unable to explain to the joint committee which work he classed as "A", which work as "B". Nevertheless, Frank Schaaf, of the works manager's office, insisted that the machinist be tried out a few more months before being promoted to "A".

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP

BY YOMEN



"LET'S PASS A LAW GIVING US TIME AND A HALF FOR SPECIAL SESSIONS."

Low Incomes Hit Again, But the Rich Get Richer

The study below by UE News Service, based on government figures, is of particular interest today in view of the renewal of the GE propaganda campaign to blame workers' wages for high prices and inflation.

A recent government survey made of consumer finances points out that in 1947 one-fourth of all spending units (persons pooling their incomes) spent substantially more than they earned.

This substantial "dissaving" (that is, expenditures in excess of income) was due in no small measure to the need of consumers "meeting higher living costs." According to the survey, approximately one-third of the spending units, or 16 million, reduced their liquid asset holdings during 1947.

While those in the lower income brackets were forced to spend more than they earned, the rich were saving. "The 10 percent of the spending units with the highest

Craft Groups Meet to Act on Rate Deadlock

An emergency meeting of the joint craft steering committee was called for Wednesday night (after this paper went to press) to act on the General Electric Company's refusal to raise the wage rates for skilled crafts.

The company's answer to the union's case was given Tuesday by J. M. Howell, works manager, and Louis Male, general superintendent, to committees representing the toolmakers, tool room machine operators, and machinists (non-production). Business Agent Leo Jandreau headed the union negotiators.

While Tuesday's discussion concerned the tool rooms and machinists, Male said the answer would be the same for the other crafts involved in the present negotiations, including the building trades, welders, and millmen.

Crafts Refusing Overtime

The company had agreed to negotiate on the rates for these crafts after three weeks of walk-out demonstrations combined with refusal to work overtime. All the crafts are still refusing to work overtime.

Male based the company's refusal on the company's so-called "community rate survey," covering industries from Rochester to Poughkeepsie. Male claimed that this survey showed rates for toolmakers here were a little more than 1% above the "community" average. By questioning Male, Jandreau showed that the survey had been arranged to give the desired result.

The company refused to include in the plants studied such important high-rate plants as International Business Machines and Oza-lid in Binghamton, Delco in Rochester, a direct competitor, Liberty Tool in Rochester, which makes tools for GE here, and General Signal and Stromberg Carlson in Rochester.

Compare with Minor Plants

On the other hand the company survey included the Watervliet Arsenal, which receives one-month

Continued on Page 4

100 Per Cent UE

All 11 shops in UE Local 423 at Paterson, N. J., are now 100 per cent UE. Not a free-rider left!

Incomes in 1947, those with incomes of \$5,700 and above" — to quote the survey — "held 43 percent of total liquid assets in early 1948." This represented an increase over what they held in the early part of 1947 when the figure was 39 percent.

(Source: "1948 Survey of Consumer Finances," Federal Reserve Bulletin, June 1948, p. 635 and July 1948, pp. 767, 769)

Meat Strike Spreads to Schenectady Area

The meat strike which has been spreading over the nation started in Schenectady this week, after Local 301 President Andrew Peterson publicly appealed to the people to join in. Picketlines of housewives appeared before supermarkets. Housewives also picketed, with their children, before a national dairy outlet, in protest against the announced penny increase per quart of milk.

Both Peterson and Dr. Walter S. Gross, candidate for State Senate in the Democratic primary, sent wires to Governor Dewey urging that he order the Erwin Commission on Agriculture to act without further delay against the milk monopoly. They said the milk trust was responsible for keeping prices low for farmers and high for consumers.

Referring to the "complete failure of the Special Session to do anything about rising food prices," Peterson urged support of the meat strike, and said:

"Such action will help bring home to our federal government that it must use all its powers to prosecute the food trust, which robs the farmers and consumers and squeezes the small business man. An aroused people can yet force the restoration of price control and put an end to the present profiteering orgy.

"The meat strike is aimed at the food trust. The farmers and the small grocers are being hurt along with the consumer by the climb in prices."

Raise Won by Strike

A month's strike at the Kidd Manufacturing Company and Bloomfield Tool Company, Bloomfield, N. J., ended when the company agreed to pay an increase of 10 cents across the board. UE Local 487 went on strike there July 7 because the company, which operates two plants, refused to give a single penny raise.

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Housewives Picket Against High Prices



New York City housewives picketing in the nationwide meat strike against high prices. This week the movement reached Schenectady, following a public appeal by 301 President Andrew Peterson urging the people of the area to support the meat strike.

Medicine for Scabs

UE strikers at Sterling Electric and Mullenbach plants in Los Angeles, discovered a way to cut down on scabbing. They published a list of names of scabs and called upon neighbors and acquaintances of these workers to urge them to respect the picket lines. According to reports of strikers making check-ups at the factory gates, scabbing "greatly diminished" at both plants after the publication of the list.

Pay Raise Negotiated

Wages at the Janette Manufacturing Company, Chicago, are boosted from 10 to 13 cents an hour under an agreement negotiated by UE.

Recognition and Raise

After UE was reorganized as bargaining agent through a card check, a contract was negotiated with Roselle Foundry Company, Roselle Park, N. J. Pay increases range from 10 to 15 cents an hour.

UE Wins Two Elections

Workers at two plants at Camden, N. J., voted this month to be represented by UE, in elections conducted outside the Taft-Hartley Board. William Karpinsky, New Jersey state mediator, supervised the voting at the Precision Drawn Steel Company and a clergyman conducted the balloting at Harman Manufacturing Company.

Appeals Day

Any 301 member dissatisfied with the way a grievance has been handled can appear before the 301 Appeals Committee at 4 p.m. any Wednesday at the union hall. Second shift workers can be heard at 1 p.m.

Phelps Dodge Raise

A straight 12 cents-an-hour pay increase has been negotiated by UE for workers at the Phelps Dodge Copper Products Company plants at Fort Wayne, Ind. and Bayway, N. J.

Pay Increase

Korfund Company, New York City, has agreed to an immediate raise of 10 cents an hour and to another five cents in six months, in its new contract with UE Local 1227.



Vote Primary Day, August 24

Boulware Back at Old Propaganda Stand Again, Selling Glories of Taft-Hartley and Low Wages

General Electric Company, through Vice-President L. R. Boulware, has resumed its campaign of articles in the "Works News" and expensive newspaper advertisements, just as before and during the spring contract negotiations.

The campaign is aimed at convincing the public and particularly the GE workers themselves, that the Taft-Hartley law is "good for labor," and that wage increases are bad. It is aimed mostly to make union members believe that their interests are different from the interests of their union, that they should look at their union with suspicion.

This One is Clever

The latest Boulware piece on the Taft-Hartley Act is clever. The great majority of the UE membership stood up to the company's Taft-Hartley maneuvers and splitting efforts in the negotiations and thereby pulled through in fair shape despite Taft-Hartley. Now Boulware tries to twist this fact into showing that the company did not try to use the new law to weaken or destroy the union.

Boulware starts out by saying that the charge that Taft-Hartley is a "slave labor" bill is ridiculous. Ask the miners, or the railroad workers, or the seamen, who found it forbid their leaving their jobs, if the name "slave labor" law is ridiculous.

Tougher on Grievances

Or just consider what the company has been doing in cutting piece work prices, refusing craft rate adjustments, and violating seniority, and then decide for what purpose GE has used Taft-Hartley.

The fact is of course, that GE used Taft-Hartley for all it was worth in the negotiations in an effort to frighten the members out of fighting for their rights, to divide them by red-baiting, and to weaken the union security clause.

Boulware tries to take credit for agreeing to a two-year contract. The truth is that a two-year contract was a mutual concession in settling the dispute, with advantages to both sides. Once the company found that the union membership did not cave in so easily before Taft-Hartley maneuvers, it favored the greater stability of a two-year contract.

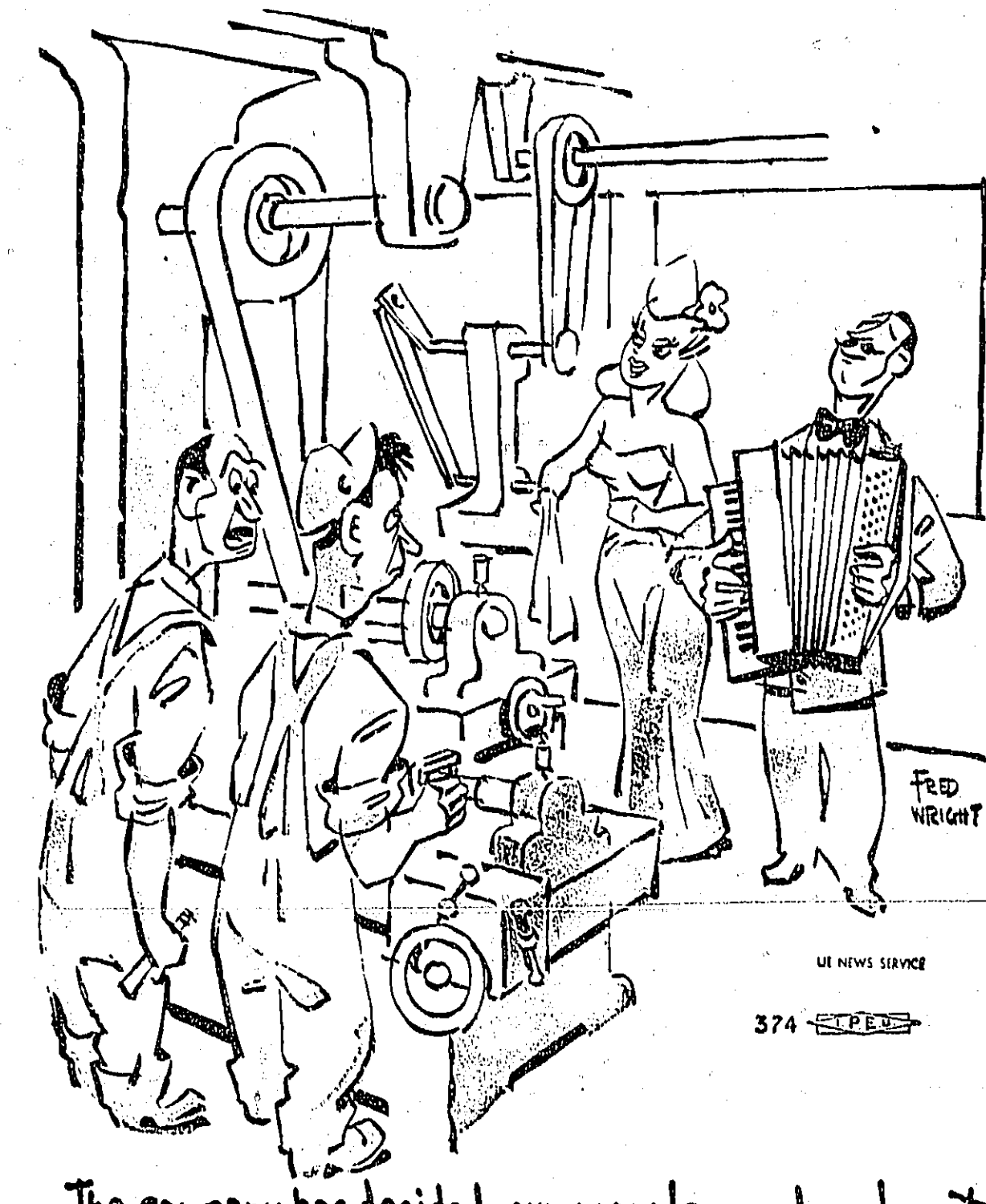
A Strange "New Freedom"

Boulware again tries to sell us a "new freedom" the right of a member to withdraw at any time. Actually what he means is the freedom for the company to organize an anti-union move within the union at any time, the freedom for a few workers to weaken their fellow-workers' bargaining power at

any time. It is just like advocating the "freedom" for any American to refuse to pay income taxes to the government at any time.

After a year of Taft-Hartley, millions of American workers have felt its vicious effects directly on their living standards. We at GE are feeling its effects daily in the company's attitude on grievances. We can expect the use of Taft-Hartley to get worse after the elections, unless we do a job in the elections.

A year of Taft-Hartley has already proven the need for greater unity than ever to resist Taft-Hartley, and to elect a government which will repeal it and return to the Wagner Act and the Roosevelt tradition.



The company has decided our morale needs a boost...

What is "Un-American," Chairman Thomas?

The Thomas Un-American Activities Committee has made a practice of flinging widespread accusations of "un-American" activities against labor people and Roosevelt supporters. Every once in a while UE is the target.

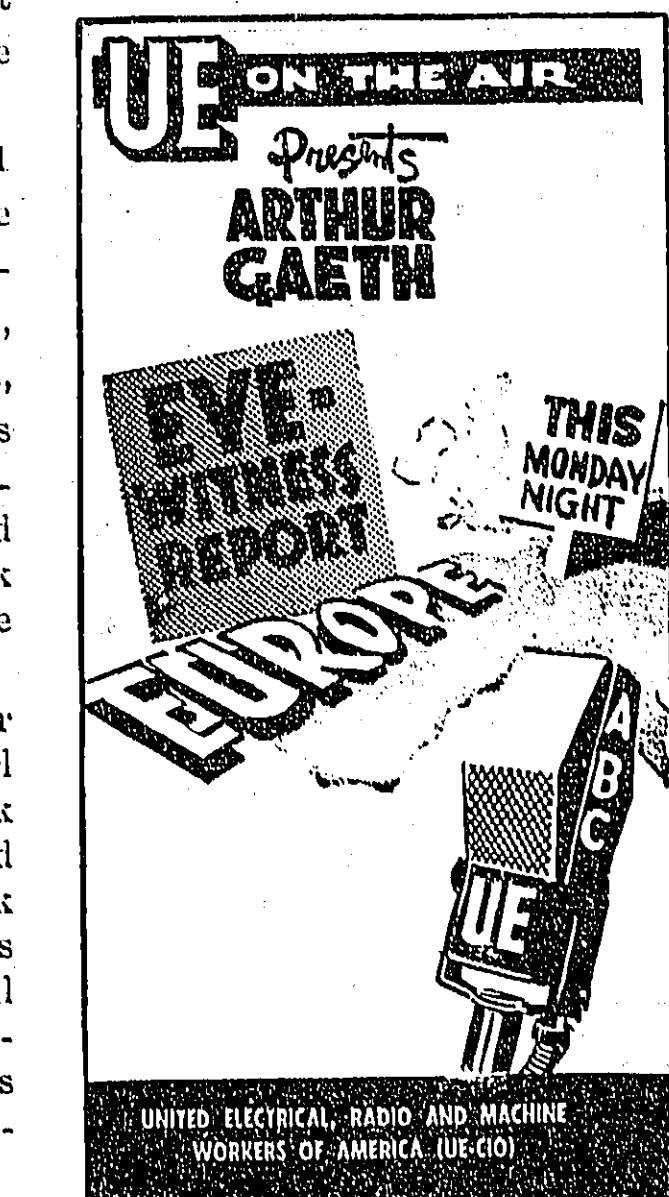
For this reason a number of 301 members have commented on the recent story of some of the activities of the committee chairman, Congressman J. Parnell Thomas, which appeared in Drew Pearson's column. The story was particularly interesting because it appeared in the Hearst-owned New York Daily Mirror which supports the Thomas committee noisily.

Pearson reported that for four years the Congressman had a girl on his government payroll kick back all her salary to him, then had a cleaning woman listed as a clerk to do the same thing, then put his wife's old aunt on the payroll until he could get her put on public relief in New Jersey. After that his daughter-in-law took over the government salary, Pearson reported.

There were further interesting activities connected with keeping an 18-year-old young soldier from being sent overseas by Thomas'

representing him as an agent of the committee, Pearson said. This is the man who sets himself up as a judge of "patriotism" in Congress today, with the help of daily front page headlines.

WEAR YOUR UNION BUTTON



HEAR ARTHUR GAETH MONDAY 10 P.M. WXXW

Taft-Hartley Action Out

A novel clause was written into the national contract recently concluded by the UE and General Cable Corp. which states that neither the union nor the company will try to give the other the business under the Taft-Hartley slave law. Under the terms of the agreement neither side will resort to the use of the Taft-Hartley Board, the courts or any other government agency during the two-year life of the contract.

The agreement covers workers at General Cable's plants in Los Angeles and Oakland Calif. and in Rome, N. Y.

12-Cent Increase

Vickers Inc., of Detroit, Mich., has signed a contract with UE providing for a general wage increase of 12 cents an hour.